

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP February 27, 1972

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 69
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
We know, O God, that only the pure in heart shall see thee. Help us in this season to remove from our lives all the dark shadows that would hide thee from us. Make us so clean within that our outward acts will witness to thy grace; through Jesus Christ, who was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Amen.
*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture----Luke 9:18-26 51-62
*The Gloria Patri
The Anthem (Trinity)
The Pastoral Prayer
The Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
The Hymn of Meditation 160
The Sermon----Lenten Music:
"Forlorn and Forsaken"
The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 126
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude
*Congregation Stands

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

One Great Hour of Sharing will be observed in both churches on March 12th.

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church World Service clothing drive closes March 13th. See Mabel Gelbach or Betty Smith for more information.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mid-Week Lenten services will be at St. Bernard's Catholic Church at 7:30 P.M. Wed. March 1st. Rev. LaRoy Deitrich will speak on "John."

World Day of Prayer Service to be held in the Keboch United Methodist Church Friday March 3rd at 7:30 P.M. It is sponsored by the WSCS of Keboch. All are invited.

PENN CENTRAL NEWS
SHUT IN PAPERS
REVISIONAL BOOKLET
MOMENT OF CONCERN

LUKE

Lenten Music: 1. Forlorn & Forsaken

Text: Luke 9:58 "Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Each year when Lent comes around, it offers six Sundays that lend themselves to the use of a series of sermons on a certain theme. I suppose all ministers use a particular series that appeals to them or is along the lines of their particular liking. I also suppose that it is no secret that I have a particular liking for hymns and poetry, and in particular hymns or music with a message. Therefore for this Lent I will be using a series of messages based not only a portion of Scripture, but upon some of our lenten hymns. We shall look at the author and perhaps somethings that are pertinent to the writing of the hymn. Since we did not have church last week, this will be the first of the series. Depending upon your personal viewpoint it will either be good news or a disappointment that one of the series must be omitted.

In the portion of scripture read this morning, Jesus made a very profound statement when he said, "Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." He was making a statement concerning the fact that he owned no property, he had nothing to call his own, and he did not know where he would sleep each night. Contrast this with our lot in life, and we can readily see that although he was without means and without material possessions, His life must have been one spent in complete work and duty to his Father. We must spend a certain portion of our time in working for a living, in order to provide for our needs and the needs of our families. We must spend a certain portion of our time in taking care of our property, whether this be house, apartment, or rented room. We must spend a certain amount of our time in the pursuit of taking care of a multitude of

tasks that of a necessity keeps us from doing much in the way of church work or work for the kingdom.

So when we contrast our lives, to the life of Christ, we can readily say that our lives are not being lived in the same way in which he lived. We can also say that times are much different from the time in which he lived. Our age is one of speed and haste. The age of Christ was one of oxen and ~~slowness~~ a much slower pace to life.

Emily Elizabeth Elliott was thinking of the Christmas story as found in the second chapter of Luke, and she was particularly concerned with the fact that no room was found for them in the inn. She wrote a hymn for the choir and the children enrolled at her Father's parish school of St. Mark's in Brighton England. And so for the first time in 1864 the words were sung;

"Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown, when thou camest
to earth for me;

But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room for thy holy nativity."

The third verse of this hymn has been omitted by most hymnals. I can recall singing this third verse when I was a lad in Sunday School, and perhaps many of you can recall it from older hymnals;

"The foxes found rest, and the birds their nest, In the shade of
the forest tree;

But thy couch was the sod, O thou Son of God,
In the deserts of Galilee."

This hymn portrays the isolation and loneliness of Jesus. We can picture in our minds how he must have felt, particularly in the last weeks of his life. His doom must have given him a feeling of being forlorn and completely forsaken by everyone around him. He must have felt a rejection by his friends, and must have felt very strongly the sense of utter futility in his chosen task. And so he compares himself

with the foxes of the field and the birds of the air.

(Illustration of indian boys) *FATHER IN BACKGROUND*

Even though Jesus must have felt forsaken, and forlorn and rejected, he must have known and felt that his Father was standing in the background giving him the strength and courage he needed to face the events in the future.

~~xx"Then, again, Lord, with the living word that should be my~~

~~people's cry~~

~~but with mocking words and with a crown of thorns they bore him~~

~~to the way of~~

~~this is how missions describe the ministry of Jesus~~

~~and how he was received. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

In the church we use music to help us express our praise and our devotion to God. We use hymns and we use choral anthems to do this. We are following an ancient custom that dates back to the Psalms. In the Psalms we read, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord. Come before him with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise."

Why is it then that many times we do not come before him with singing, with joy, with a vigor and a zest that comes from the very depths of our being?

(Illustration of not singing hymns).

In our own congregation we say, "That we are not a singing congregation." Why not? Don't we love the Lord enough to become a singing congregation? Isn't it as important to lift our voices in loud praise to God as we lift them in cheering at a sporting event? Each Sunday morning joy should reign in our hearts and this joy should be expressed in our participation in the service. This means in singing, in praying during the prayers and in being involved in worship. The sum total of our worship should and must be that we are involved in

the service. A congregation that will not sing to the Lord, is not a church. This is the same as a ~~church that~~ congregation that will not give is not a church. It takes total commitment of all the members to make a church. It cannot be just a few or just a handful.

Have you ever stopped to think what the words of the hymn mean? We do not sing the hymns merely for an exercise of our vocal cords. ~~It is~~ The hymns are picked for a purpose and are not just random selections. They are chosen to make the entire worship service for that particular service, worshipful to God, ~~and to make the congregation~~ and to lead the congregation into a meaningful experience for that day.

We leave Christ forlorn and forsaken when we refuse to be a part of the worship service which is conducted in his name. I am sure that we do not intend to slight our Lord, but this is what we do when we refuse to be involved in the worship experience.

Perhaps we need to all take a closer look at the worship service and perhaps then we can become more worshipful in it. Each hymn should be a new opportunity to move us to a response to the call of our Saviour.

Miss Elliott wrote in the last verse of this hymn we have been looking at this morning;

"When the heavens shall ring and the angels sing
At thy coming to victory, Let thy voice call me home,
saying, "Yet there is room, there is room at my side for thee."
And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus: There is room in my heart
For thee."

As we look each week at a different hymn and a different portion of the passion story of our Lord, may we too come to the realization that we should each be able to say, "There is room in my heart for thee Lord Jesus. There is room."

Call to Worship: Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Call to Confession: Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Let us confess our sins.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: How precious is the steadfast love of God. The children of men take refuge in his wings. They feast on the abundance of his house and he gives them the rivers of ~~their~~ his delights. With him is the fountain of life and in his light do we see light. Amen.

Consistory notes at Christ:

Tenebrae service March 30, 7:30 PM

Snow closing listen to WHP or call Consistory.

Questionnaire for Church and C. School on Easter.